



**gwinnett**county  
G E O R G I A

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# **PARKS & RECREATION**

## ANNUAL REPORT

## Mission, Vision, Values



### Mission

In partnership with our citizens, Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation provides high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs, and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life.

### Vision

Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation pledges to sustain the delivery of the highest standard of excellence of parks, facilities, programs, and services by:

- Being responsive to the changing recreational needs of a diverse and growing community
- Continuing a citizen-driven and professional approach to provide safe, well designed and maintained facilities and programs
- Providing responsible stewardship of human, fiscal, natural, and historic resources
- Maximizing community resources

### Values

- We believe in honesty, integrity and ethical conduct
- We are customer-oriented and both accountable and responsive to our citizens
- We believe in teamwork and collaboration with our community partners
- We promote safety, cost efficiency, innovation, and service excellence



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**parks & recreation**



# About Parks & Recreation



## Managing Staff

Division Director,  
Parks and Recreation Operations

Tina Fleming

Division, Director,  
Parks and Recreation Project Administration

Grant Guess

Deputy Director of Park Operations

David Clark

Manager, Aquatics

Jim Cyrus

Manager, Recreation

John Register

Manager, Support Services

David McGaughey

Manager, Grounds Maintenance

Eric Home

The mission of Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation (GCPR), in partnership with our citizens, is to provide high quality, broad-based parks, facilities, programs, and services creating a sense of community, enabling a safe and secure environment, and enhancing Gwinnett's quality of life. This annual report provides an overview of the operation and development of parks and recreation in Gwinnett County for the fiscal year January 1 through December 31, 2014. This report also highlights significant events and accomplishments from 2014.

In Gwinnett County there truly is something for everyone. With 46 open parks and facilities opened throughout the County, GCPR strives to provide Gwinnett residents with quality recreation and leisure opportunities, serving all ages, interests, and levels of physical ability. GCPR offers a wide variety of classes, camps, programs, and sports leagues to satisfy nearly every Gwinnett resident.

Gwinnett County's park system is home to 175 multi-purpose sport fields with two featuring an overlay football field, nine aquatic facilities housing 17 bodies of water including indoor competition, instructional, lap and leisure/water park pools and outdoor leisure/water park pools, community and senior recreation centers, gymnasiums and activity buildings, playgrounds, dog park areas, outdoor tennis, sand volleyball and basketball courts, skate parks, miles of multi-purpose trails, and historical and nature sites. In addition, the Board of Commissioners' successful greenspace preservation program, supported by the 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) allows Gwinnett residents the opportunity to enjoy the County's precious natural resources.

Two divisions make up Parks and Recreation, which falls under the Department of Community Services: Parks and Recreation Project Administration and Operations.



**Tina Fleming**  
Division Director Operations



**Grant Guess**  
Division Director Project Administration



The **Gwinnett County Recreation Authority** is a legal advisory board comprised of nine-members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, including two representatives from each of the four commission districts, plus one chairman-appointed member. The board typically meets on the second Thursday of the month.

Chairman's Appointment	Charlie Underwood
District 1	Brad Alexander
District 1	Gene Callaway
District 2	Jack Bolton, Vice Chair
District 2	Mark Ogden
District 3	Dr. Steven Flynt, Chair
District 3	Mike Korom
District 4	Lois Allen
District 4	Myron Bullock, Jr.

The **Gwinnett Parks Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to support GCPR programs and services. Foundation volunteers advocate quality of life through citizenry awareness of the County's park system and recreational opportunities and assist GCPR in three core program areas: Park Park'nership, the Commemorative Program, and the Scholarship Fund for Youth, Senior, Therapeutic, and Health and Wellness programs.

## Project Administration Division



Charged with evaluating potential park sites, reviewing boundary surveys, and preparing feasibility studies, the Project Administration staff is responsible for environmental assessment reports, geotechnical analyses, park designs, oversight of renovation and capital improvements to existing parks and facilities, master planning parks, and construction of new parks. Once land is purchased for a park, planning staff works with citizen steering committees to create a master plan. These committees consist of members of neighboring communities and park users.

### 2014 Project Administration Highlights

- Completed the construction of the Ivy Creek Greenway Section 3
- Completed renovations of Bethesda Park Aquatic Center
- Completed the renovation of Lions Club Park
- Completed construction of Little Mulberry Park Phase III
- Completed Bethesda Park adult softball facility renovation
- Completed the Dacula Park concession/restroom building
- Completed updates to the Alexander Park and Ronald Reagan Park master plans

### 2014 Project Administration Projects Underway

- Began construction of the Little Mulberry Park ravine trail renovation
- Awarded construction contracts for Level Creek and J.B. Williams Parks
- Continued design of South Gwinnett Park renovation and Rock Springs Park Phase II
- Began design of McDaniel Farm Park Phase II, Ronald Reagan Park improvements, Alexander Park Phase II, George Pierce Park gymnasium expansion, and Best Friend Park gymnasium renovation



## Parks & Recreation Operations Division



Charged with maintaining, operating, public awareness, and safety of the County's park system and recreation facilities, the Operations Division staff is responsible for providing quality parks, programs, and services to meet the broad-based needs of the citizenry in Gwinnett.

### Recreation Operations: Programming and Resources and Marketing

Recreation general programming staff and youth athletic facilitators provide countywide services that are divided into four geographic areas: North, South, East, and West. Other countywide specialized program areas include aquatics, heritage, seniors, cultural arts, adult athletics, and tennis. Recreation staff operates and maintain recreation facilities, schedule facility rentals, facilitate citizen meetings, and plan and schedule classes, workshops, summer camps, adult athletic leagues, and special events throughout the County. Recreation staff also fosters volunteer and community services in County parks and recreation facilities and in programs and service delivery.

The Resources and Marketing unit is responsible for creating awareness of the County's park system and the many recreational opportunities that GCPR provides for the community. This awareness is created through publications, the GCPR website, TVgwinnett, and media relations. Additionally, Resources and Marketing plans special events, prepares presentations on various aspects of GCPR, makes informative presentations to groups and other organizations, works closely with nonprofit organizations such as the Gwinnett Parks Foundation, prepares local, state and national award nominations, and creates invitations, flyers, advertisements, news releases, and brochures.

### 2014 Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Highlights

- In partnership with the Greater Lilburn Athletic Association, held grand opening for Lions Club Park – March 8, 2014
- Launched Live Healthy Gwinnett with a POP-Up Park event at the Eastside Medical Center campus and held 1, 2, 3K Glow & Show event at Alexander Park with 350 runners and 3,500 people attending – April 24 – 25
- In partnership with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta–Strong 4 Life, 83 volunteer camp aides, 13 staff, and four summer interns were trained at Rhodes Jordan Park as Strong 4 Life Camp Ambassadors – May 17
- In partnership with the Gwinnett Sports Commission, the Aloha Lacrosse Tournament was held at Rabbit Hill Park with 74 teams from around the country participating – May 17
- Participated in the National Park Trust's third annual National Kids to Parks Day with You + GCPR = PLAY that involved more than 100 children and their families at Rhodes Jordan Park, Frogs & Slogs Stream Exploration at Jones Bridge Park with more than 40 participants, and in partnership with the Gwinnett Police, the Gwinnett Animal Shelter, and Gwinnett Fire Department hosted Safe Kids Day at Bogan Park with 300 kids – May 17

- Held the statewide Summer Feeding Kickoff event in partnership with Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Food Bank Association, the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Lucky Shoals Park – June 10
- Held grand opening for Little Mulberry Park expansion – July 15, 2014
- Second annual Swim Safely Week held at all Gwinnett County aquatic centers – July 1 – 6
- In partnership with the Gwinnett Sports Commission, West Gwinnett Park Aquatic Center hosted the second annual Kids Triathlon series on August 25 with 1,013 participants, 4,500 spectators, and 100 volunteers
- In partnership with the National Football League, the Punt Pass & Kick event was held at Rhodes Jordan Park with 107 participants and 400 spectators – July 26
- In partnership with Afterschool Alliance, J.M. Tull YMCA, Gwinnett 4-H, Kidspllosion, Artppportunity, and Centerville Community Center hosted the first Lights on Afterschool event in Gwinnett, A Walk Among the Stars, with over 1,000 in attendance at Alexander Park – October 23
- Fall into Health – A Senior Health Fair was held at Bethesda Park Senior Center in partnership with Gwinnett Health and Human Services and Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service with 900 seniors attending – October 24
- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Lighting of the Tree saw more than 6,000 people in attendance – November 27
- 47,317 athletes were involved in youth sports with 29 youth athletic associations
- 411 summer and athletic camps were offered for ages 5 – 15 year olds
- 10,229 permits were issued for community recreation centers, ball fields, pavilions, and special facilities
- Hosted 31 adult athletic tournaments and 38 tennis tournaments on the local, state, and national level
- There were 29 new partnerships formed to increase community involvement
- Maximized use of alternative labor with 874,694 volunteer hours, 48 Eagle Scout projects, 92 volunteer work days, and 16,181 community service hours
- Distributed 60 news releases and 601 citizen surveys
- Generated \$14,328 permit revenue from 22 film and photography permits from continued listings on the Georgia Film Commission website
- Awarded the \$35,000 Commit to Health Grant through the National Recreation and Park Association, Walmart Foundation, and OrganWise Guys for healthy eating materials and physical activity programming for 10 summer camp sites servings over 5,000 campers
- Launched the Walk the Talk program with community healthcare partners (54 Walk the Talks at 18 different park locations, 281 walkers, 22 different volunteer walk leaders, and over 103.7 miles walked)
- Volunteer Resources awarded 130 volunteer pins, two Silver Star Awards, and 97 Presidential Volunteer Service Awards to recipients for volunteer service
- In partnership with the Gwinnett Parks Foundation, hosted two Park'nership events – March 1, Pinckneyville Park (122 volunteers and 322 hours served) and October 25, Little Mulberry Park (136 volunteers and 336 hours served)
- Launched Rec1, the new registration/reservation online system, that offered 9,637 users (as of December 31) a more customer-friendly online product for their registration needs with the capability of mobile device viewing and calendar viewing for facilities/pavilions (online pavilion rentals will begin spring 2015) – December 1
- Partnered with Gwinnett County Magistrate and Probate Courts to offer a free mass wedding ceremony at 10:11am on 12-13-14. Following the ceremony, a mass reception was held to celebrate the newlyweds. More than 30 couples and their families participated in the event held at Pinckneyville Park Community Recreation Center, which was transformed into a special wedding venue for the day



## Recreation Programming and Resources and Marketing Projects Currently Underway

- Expansion of day camp program to Shorty Howell Park by contracting with Kidspllosion to host a 10-week program for 5 – 6 year olds. Contractor has access to CAPS program for funding assistance as well as Federal Food Service program to provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks for all participants.
- Expansion of day camp program from seven to eight weeks to coincide with the Board of Education school calendar, offering needed services for the summer for parents
- Seek and establish partnerships to implement afterschool time programs at various facilities to better meet the needs of a diverse community
- Expansion of adult athletic league offerings with weekend leagues and additional weekend rental opportunities
- Rollout of marketing campaign for online pavilion reservations
- Enhance and increase surveys to adult athletics, health and wellness participants, and volunteers

## Park Operations: Ground Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance includes four districts (North, South, West, and Conservation Parks) that are responsible for the basic care and upkeep for all parks in the County's park system. Turf, trails and natural resource management, mowing and fertilization of passive and athletic sport fields, sports field game preparation, tree and shrub care, playground inspection and maintenance, grounds and buildings janitorial, and litter/refuse removal all are basic components of the scope of quality service afforded by the grounds maintenance staff.

## Park Operations: Support Services

Support Services includes six main units (Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Field Support, Contractual Services, and Warehouse Operations) that are involved in the maintenance of all facility systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, lighting, irrigation, building structural, painting, key locking system), fleet maintenance coordination, athletic/security lighting, site electrical/plumbing for community centers, activity buildings, aquatic centers, specialized facilities, athletic fields, and all general park areas throughout the parks system.

## 2014 Park Operations Highlights: Grounds Maintenance and Support Services

- Sports field renovation of 977,000 square feet
- Maximized the use of alternative labor resources with 24,315 inmate labor hours and 16,181 hours through the work alternative program
- Service request completion rate was 3,228 received and 2,905 completed – 90 percent



## 2014 Park Operations Projects Currently Underway

- Development of Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Configured and began implementation of a work management program via a computerized maintenance management software program
- Development of a maintenance activity-based costing budget for maintenance operations
- Implementation of a natural resources management program

## 2014 Award Highlights for Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation

- National Recreation and Park Association
  - Gold Medal Finalist
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association
- Agency of the Year
- State Lifeguarding Champions
- Older American Month, Senior Section Award
- July is Parks and Recreation Month, Programming Section Award
- Swim Safely, Innovative Programming Award, Marketing and Visibility Publication Award
- Aquatics Distinguished Professional – Jason Cutchins
- Facilities and Grounds Distinguished Professional – Jason Duncan
- Georgia Recreation and Park Association, District 7
- Volunteer of the Year – Fred Fletcher
- Programmer Award – Janice Rinaldo
- Student Award – Kylie Stackis
- Gwinnett Magazine
  - Best Parks: Bethesda Park, Bogan Park, Harbins Park, Little Mulberry Park, and Jones Bridge Park
  - Best Family Activities
- Explore Gwinnett
  - Community Partner of the Year – Sheila Fowler
- Gwinnett Sports Commission
  - Community Partner of the Year – Stacy Fowler
- National Park Service and Forest Service
  - National Trail Designation for Harbins Park, Little Mulberry Park, McDaniel Farm Park, and Tribble Mill Park
- National Association of Counties
  - Trail Help Locators
  - Strong4Life Camp Ambassador Program

# Financial Summary



## Parks and Recreation Capital History

Revenues	2013	2014
Recreation Tax*	\$ 1,127,235	\$ 1,032,873
Grants	0	100,000
General Tax/Other	21,613,340	43,265,649
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,740,575</b>	<b>\$ 44,398,522</b>
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Expenditures	2013	2014
Capital Improvements and Equipment	\$ 18,158,571	\$ 12,107,430

\*Funds received in operating fund and transferred to capital to be expensed.

## 2014 Parks and Recreation Revenue and Expenditures

Revenues	
General Fund	\$ 142,777
Recreation Tax	25,567,172
User Fees	5,724,980
Other Revenues/Dividends	38,663
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,473,592</b>
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Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$ 14,520,841
Supplies	9,319,002
Other Changes/Services	3,257,131
Contribution Capital	2,943,803
Bonded Debt Service	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 30,040,777</b>

## 2014 At A Glance



Total park land acreage	9,413
Number of operational parks	46
Number of recreation/community centers	12
Number of senior recreation centers/designated area	2
Number of tennis courts	51
Number of outdoor basketball/multi-use courts	40
Number of miles of bike/walking/hiking trails	125
Number of competition and leisure/play pools	17
Number of skate parks	7
Number of cultural/historic sites	7
Number of playgrounds	69
Number of dog park areas	7
Number of special needs multi-use sport fields	9
Number of classes, programs, camps, and events offered	7,030
Number of parks under development	2
Number of parks master plans completed	3
Number of groundbreaking for new parks	0
Number of parks and facilities opened	1

Number of parks/facilities renovated	1
Number of participants enrolled in recreation classes	90,853
Number of recreation and athletic summer camps offered	411
Total participation in summer camps	4,394
Number of youth athletic associations (YAA)	29
Enrollment participation of children in YAA programs	47,317
Number of participants in adult sports leagues	6,120
Aquatics classes/lessons offered	3,226
Number of registrants in aquatics classes/lessons	46,971
General attendance at county pools	461,893
Number of facility and specialized facility use	9,578
Facility rental participation	708,474
Acreage of developed parkland maintained by staff	3,010
Number of multi-purpose sports fields maintained by staff	175
Number of work orders for plumbing, electrical, carpentry, field support	3,228
Number of volunteer hours	874,811

## Community Partnerships

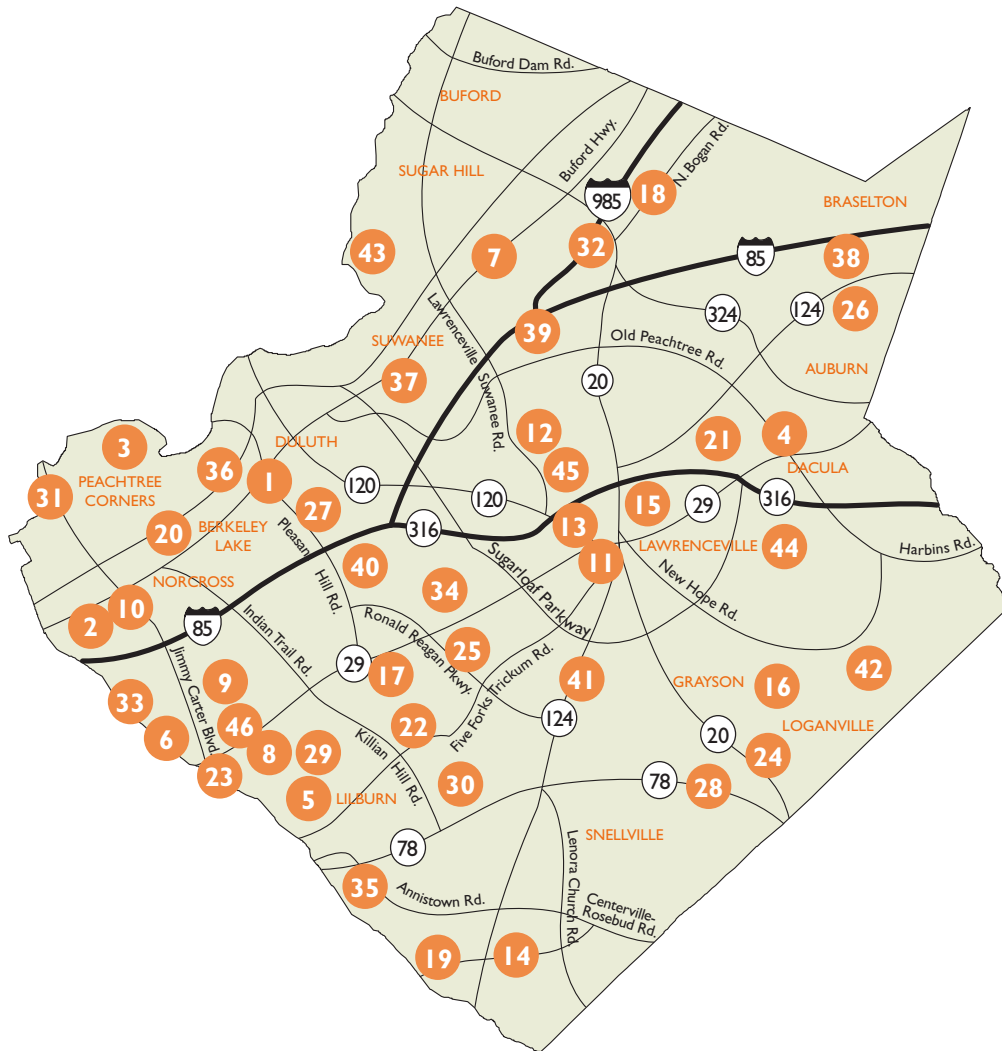


- Afterschool Alliance
- Alpharetta-Johns Creek Kiwanis
- American Hiking Society
- American Legion Buford/Duluth/Snellville
- Archer Athletic Association
- Artworks! Gwinnett
- Atlanta Astronomy Club
- Atlanta Fire United Soccer Association
- Best Friend Club
- Bogan Gold Wing Club
- Boy Scouts of America
- Bright From the Start
- Brookwood Baseball/Softball Association
- Brookwood Football
- Brookwood Lacrosse
- Bryson Park Youth Athletic Association
- Buford School System
- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Church of Christ
- City of Duluth Recreation Department
- City of Lawrenceville
- City of Snellville Recreation Department
- City of Sugar Hill Recreation Department
- Clemson University
- Collins Hill Athletic Association
- Collins Hill Stingrays
- Dacula Athletic Association
- Dacula Dolphins
- Dacula Rainbow Senior Recreation Club
- Dacula Soccer Club
- Disc Stalker
- Duluth Youth Athletic Association
- Eastside Medical Center
- Exceptional Kids Athletics
- Evergreen Club
- Georgia DNR
- Georgia Futbol Club
- Georgia Geocachers Association
- Georgia Gwinnett College
- Get Kids Fishing Foundation
- Get Up and Go Senior Recreation Club
- Girls Scouts of America
- Good Age Senior Recreation Club
- Goodwill of North Georgia
- Grayson Athletic Association
- Greater Lilburn Athletic Association
- Greening Forward
- Gwinnett Area Trail Riders
- Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- Gwinnett Council for Seniors
- Gwinnett County Board of Education
- Gwinnett Disc Golf Organization
- Gwinnett Federal Swim League
- Gwinnett Historical Society
- Gwinnett Humane Society
- Gwinnett Master Gardeners
- Gwinnett Masters Special Teams
- Gwinnett Parks Foundation
- Gwinnett Rose Society
- Gwinnett Public Library
- Gwinnett Senior Golden Games
- Gwinnett SenioR Learning Center
- Gwinnett Sports Commission
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Gwinnett Veterans Memorial Museum
- Gwinnett United in Drug Education (GUIDE)
- H2U
- J.M. Tull YMCA
- Kennesaw State University
- Kidsplasion
- Lanier Athletic Association
- Lawrenceville Fun Time Senior Recreation Club
- Lawrenceville Tourism and Trade Association
- Lawrenceville Youth Athletic Association
- Liberty National Volunteer Match
- Mercer University
- Metro Atlanta Senior Softball Association
- Mill Creek Athletic Association
- Mountain Park Athletic Association
- Mountain Park Sharks
- Mountain View Athletic Association
- Norcross Baseball/Softball Association
- Norcross Soccer Association
- Norcross Youth Athletic Association
- North Gwinnett Baseball/Softball Association
- North Gwinnett Football Association
- North Gwinnett Lacrosse Association
- OrganWise Guys
- Peachtree Boosters Club
- Peachtree Ridge Athletic Association
- Positive Public Image
- SafeKids Gwinnett
- Salvation Army
- Shiloh Athletic Association
- Shorty Howell Hi-Steppers Senior Recreation Club
- South Gwinnett Athletic Association
- Special Event Network
- Start from the Inside
- Suwanee Goodtimers Senior Recreation Club
- Tennis Golf Association
- The Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Play Coalition
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Viewpoint Health
- Vines Garden Railroad

# 2014 Park Inventory



With 46 parks, residents are just minutes away from enjoying a day at the park and the many activities offered by Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Shorty Howell Park                                  | 24. Bay Creek Park                             |
| 2. Best Friend Park                                    | 25. Ronald Reagan Park                         |
| 3. Jones Bridge Park                                   | 26. Little Mulberry Park                       |
| 4. Dacula Park   | 27. McDaniel Farm Park                         |
| 5. Mountain Park Park                                  | 28. Vines Park                                 |
| 6. Lucky Shoals Park                                   | 29. Lions Club Park                            |
| 7. George Pierce Park                                  | 30. South Gwinnett Park                        |
| 8. Harmony Grove Soccer Complex                        | 31. Holcomb Bridge Park                        |
| 9. Singleton Road Activity Building                    | 32. Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center |
| 10. Cemetery Field                                     | 33. Graves Park                                |
| 11. Lawrenceville Female Seminary                      | 34. Sweet Water Park                           |
| 12. Collins Hill Park                                  | 35. DeShong Park                               |
| 13. Gwinnett Historic Courthouse                       | 36. West Gwinnett Park                         |
| 14. Lenora Park  | 37. Peachtree Ridge Park                       |
| 15. Rhodes Jordan Park                                 | 38. Duncan Creek Park                          |
| 16. Tribble Mill Park                                  | 39. Rock Springs Park                          |
| 17. Bethesda Park                                      | 40. Club Drive park                            |
| 18. Bogans Park  | 41. Alexander park                             |
| 19. Yellow River Park                                  | 42. Harbins Park                               |
| 20. Pinckneyville Park                                 | 43. Settles Bridge Park                        |
| 21. Rabbit Hill park                                   | 44. Freeman's Mill Park                        |
| 22. Yellow River Post Office                           | 45. Collins Hill Golf Course                   |
| 23. Mountain Park Aquatic Center and Activity Building | 46. Bryson Park                                |



**Please consider the environment before printing this report.**

**gwinnett**county  
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